

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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The invention concerns a system and method for enabling remote conferencing between conference participants. Employing the invention involves the use of one or more forms which support interaction with a computer system or network. Each form is printed on sheet material such as paper and includes coded data which allows it to be used to interact with the computer system via a sensing device operated by a user.

Specifically, the method includes the steps of providing a participant with at least one conferencing form containing information relating to a remote conferencing session and including coded data indicative of an identity of the conferencing form and of at least one reference point of the conferencing form, receiving, in a computer system, indicating data from a sensing device operated by said conference participant involved in the conference session, said indicating data regarding the identity of the conferencing form and a position of the sensing device relative to the conferencing form, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the conferencing form, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data, identifying in the computer system and from the indicating data, at least one parameter relating to the conferencing session, and providing at least one other conference participant remote from said conference participant with at least one conferencing form containing information representative of the at least one parameter.

The invention can be employed by geographically distributed participants to communicate graphical ideas via a shared 'whiteboard' using interactive surface media while engaged in a telephone conference. Every time a participant adds a modification or a new diagram to the whiteboard, the other participants can be provided with a printed copy of the updated page.

(Figure 53)